Forces. The amount for which the contracts/schemes have been finalized is Rs. 179.09 crore.

Appointment of chief of defence staff

29. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what decision, if any, has been taken on the recommendation of the Kargil committee for appointment of a Chief of Defence Staff, for better integration of the defence forces; and

(b) the reasons for delay in implementing the same and the steps being taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Group of Ministers (GoM) in their Report on "Reforming the National Security System", *inter alia* recommended the establishment of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). The recommendations made in the Report of the GoM were approved by the Government on May 11,2001 with modification that a view on the recommendation relating to the institution of the CDS will be taken after consultation with political parties. While a decision on the institution of Chief of Defence Staff has not been taken in view of the complexities and sensitivities involved, a number of institutions like Integrated Defence Staff, Tri-Service bodies like the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA), the Strategic Forces Command and the Andaman & Nicobar Theatre Command have been established to achieve the basic objectives behind the establishment of the Chief of Defence Staff. Further discussions including a detailed examination of pros and cons of the proposal are considered necessary before the formulation of Government's views on the subject. A decision regarding appointment of the CDS can be taken only after wider consultation with various political parties.

Instruction for making available defence helicopters

30. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested Union Government to issue necessary instructions to the Flag Officers (Eastern Naval Command), Vishakhapatnam and Indian Air Force Base, Hyderabad

for making available Defence helicopter as and when requisitioned by the Director-General of Police, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad at a very Short Notice;

(b) if so, action taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Defence helicopter can be provided to State Government, including Andhra Pradesh, for various relief and rescue operations after taking into consideration the requirements of Defence Services.

Lowering of standard of heights for recruitment of Jawans

31. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the relatively lower physical height of people of Orissa in comparison to most other States in India including Bihar and U.P.; and

(b) if so, will the Government consider the lowering of the standard of heights for recruitment of Jawans in the Armed Forces an equating the people of Orissa with those from Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh instead of equating them with Bihar and U.P.?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Anthropological Survey of India has determined the mean height of men in Orissa at 162.87 cms (5.34 ft). The mean height has been determined at 162.11 cms (5.32 ft), and 165.18 cms (5.42 ft) for Bihar and Uttar Pradesh respectively. There is, therefore, no significant height variation in the mean height of men in these States.

(b) Based on the genetic pool of all regions, the country is divided into six regions and different physical are prescribed for recruitment in the Army for each region. Within a region the prevailing lowest physical standards of that region are being adopted. Orissa is included in the Eastern region and is clubbed with Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Jharkhand. Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh belong to the Central